

of devices respectively connected to the input terminals;
detecting a selected one of the signals from the input terminals; and
varying an image of a portion corresponding to the selected input terminal on said list.

REMARKS

A typographical error in the specification has been corrected.

Claims 5-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, since divisional applications directed thereto have been filed separately. Claims 1-4 are presented, each of which is independent. Each of the retained claims has been amended to define the invention more precisely.

In accordance with the present invention, audio equipment has an input unit and a controller. The controller generates a display control signal which is supplied to a display unit connected to the audio equipment. The input unit is composed of a plurality of keys which are manually operated by a user. The input unit inputs model names of connecting audio equipment such as a DAT, a CD player and others. The controller arranges for storing input data with respect to the model names and generates control signals to input the display mode shown in Fig. 5A or 5B.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103 as being

unpatentable over Kim (EP432056) in view of Ihara (JP63-173476). Claims 1-4 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103 as being unpatentable over Masaki (JP1-18745) in view of Ihara (JP63-173476). In support of the first rejection, the examiner refers to page 7, lines 47-53 of Kim and to the television display for displaying audio and video signals of Ihara. In support of the second rejection, the examiner refers to the audio device and video device of Masaki and to the display device of Ihara.

Both rejections are respectfully traversed. Each claim has been amended to define the invention more precisely.

In accordance with amended claim 1, an audio equipment is provided for processing an audio signal and a video signal for a video signal receiver connected thereto. The equipment comprises a control panel for the audio equipment, the control panel having a plurality of control portions arranged in a predetermined physical layout. Means is provided for detecting an operated state of each of the portions of the control panel. Means is further provided for producing a video signal to display an image simulating the physical layout of the control panel on the video signal receiver. The arrangement is such that when the control panel is operated to change an operated state of one of the portions thereof, a video signal is produced in which the display at a position corresponding to the portion of the control panel which is detected as being operated on is varied.

Claim 2 is a method claim that has been amended analogously

to claim 1.

Claim 3 is directed to an audio equipment for processing an audio signal and a video signal for a video signal receiver connected thereto. The equipment comprises means for selecting and outputting signals from input terminals and means for storing the names of devices connected to the input terminals and producing a video signal to display a list of the input terminals and corresponding names of the devices. The arrangement is such that when one of the signals from the input terminals is selected, a video signal is produced in which the display at a position corresponding to the selected input terminal is varied on the display list.

Claim 4 is a method claim and has been amended analogously to claim 3.

The invention as defined in the amended claims is neither disclosed nor suggested by the documents relied upon.

The Kim patent discloses a character information display system. The system comprises a pair of heads for respectively tracking a pair of tracks of a tape. A liquid crystal display and controller display the character signal supplied from a CPU. An audio signal is recorded on one track of the tape by one head. On the other track of the tape the following are recorded in sequence: a starting signal indicating the start of a sentence, a control word signal indicating the language selection function and display selection function, and an ending signal indicating

the character information signal of a sentence and the end of a sentence.

Ihara discloses a display apparatus for displaying information according to input commands generated by a remote controller.

The Masaki patent document discloses equipment for mounting in an automobile having a display and a plurality of keys. The display displays a plurality of key portions. Certain keys employed with high frequency are positioned around the display unit.

Thus the documents relied upon fail to disclose or suggest the invention as defined in the amended claims. Fig. 1 of the application exemplifies a control panel having a plurality of control portions arranged in a predetermined physical layout. Fig. 2 exemplifies an image simulating the physical layout of the control panel on a video signal receiver. This simulation is missing from the disclosures of the documents relied upon. The remaining documents, cited but not relied upon, have been considered and are inapposite to the invention as defined by the amended claims. In particular, the European patent publication of Izaki No. 390041 discloses a display consisting of stylized icons which do not, however, simulate the physical layout of an actual control panel.

Moreover, the documents relied upon do not disclose audio equipment having the display unit for displaying model names of

additional audio equipment, as exemplified in Figs. 3A, 3B, 5A, and 5B of the application. In accordance with Ihara, it is not obvious that the names of the devices are stored in a memory and it does not appear that both input terminals and corresponding names are stored, as recited in claims 3 and 4 and as illustrated in the application drawing (Figs. 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. section 103 is respectfully requested.

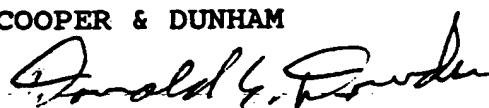
The preceding comments regarding the technical distinctions between the invention as defined in the amended claims and the disclosures in the cited documents represent the present opinion of applicants' undersigned counsel. Should the examiner disagree therewith, it is requested that it be indicated where, in the cited documents, there is a basis for such disagreement.

For the reasons stated, the application is in condition for allowance; issuance of a formal notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the application, the examiner is cordially invited to call undersigned counsel at (212) 278-0400.

Respectfully submitted,

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